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A CALL TO THE PEOPLE OF INDIA

THERE are times in the histories of people when those whom God had given opportunities to hold high positions in life although now not all charged with high responsibilities should plainly speak their minds.

Our Civilzation and our Culture are ancient. Our Philosophy of truth and non-violence, of live and let live, of love and loyalty for mankind, of forget and forgive is glorious. All these are worthy of our sacrifices in every form, for their preservation. In this Service let as remind ourselves of the inevitable need for sensible modifications in our ways of life to conform to the rapidly changing patterns of society.

In this year which marks the centenary of the struggle for independence, whose beginnings emphasized that success or failure depended on unity or the lack of it, we bring to the attention of our countrymen the need to face the difficulties which confront us and which will appear in the future, as a united nation, determined not to be distracted in our march forward by considerations of separateness of any kind whatever.

We got our Independence after years of political struggle—which struggle was not conducted only by the politician but by everyone of us too, in our own unobtrusive humble ways in whatever walks of life we rendered our Service. It is our duty to act as a united team of INDIANS to keep this Independence for all time. Here is a glorious and Sacred adventure in which we of today have the good fortune to be active partners of.

India is in danger. We are in danger from moral and intellectual apathy, from the mortal enemies of mankind which sap the will and darken the understanding and breed evil dissensions. We are in danger of 'disunity' because of the communal mindedness of some. We are in danger of lack of sustained effort on our part to build our country, by being too conservative and orthodox. We are in danger of being a nation of 'destructive critics' and NOT co-operative members of the glorious team of nation-builders. Unless these are withstood, we shall lack moral strength and moral unity sufficient to save our country and our liberties.

Our present dangers are a challenge to us; but in meeting the challenges of history, peoples grow in greatness.

The dangers demand of all Indians, community of thought and purpose. They demand a restoration of the moral order from which alone true social order can derive.

We remind all Indians that we are members one of another dependent even for our daily bread on the work of many. From the community we have our livelihood, culture, protection in reign of law. To the community we owe a just return of loyalty and service.

WE BELIEVE

that each of us has a duty to defend the community against evil designs and aggression and to preserve for our children that which was given to us,
that each of us has a duty to deal selflessly and loyally ~~with his fellows~~ in the transactions of life,
that each has a duty to himself and to his fellows of honest work,
that the development of a true united community amongst ourselves and with all peoples of good will is the one way to peace at home and abroad.

THEREFORE

We call for a new effort from all Indians to advance moral standards. We ask for it from individuals in their personal and vocational relationships, in and through the lives of families, in and through all our voluntary associations, trade unions, employers' and professional groups, the organisation of women, of service men, and all the societies which our people have created to express their cultural, social, industrial and economic interests.

We call for an adequate understanding of the nature of law and of its necessity as the principle of order in a free society.

We call on all Indians to take the active and loyal concern in public affairs proper to citizens of a free society, imbued with a high sense of civic duties and discipline.

We call on each Indian to examine his conscience and his motives in all his associations with his fellows. If each does his part, the whole commuuity will be renewed.

We call on our people to think now of the future into which our children go, that we may shape it well and wisely, for them.

We call on our people to remember those whoes labours and sacrifices opened this land to the use of mankind, those who bore and reared the children of our nation, those who died in battles—political and otherwise—for us, bringing splendour to our country; those who worked with mind and muscle for the heritage which we, please God, shall hold and enlarge, for our children and their children and so on to eternity.

We call on our people to work ceaselessly in unity to make India strong by having a high standard of morale, by providing for economic stability and industrial self-sufficiency and virility in the people and that this may be so, we ask that each Indian shall renew in himself the full meanings of the call which has inspired us in our sense of love and loyalty for our beloved Motherland in these days of danger.

Only a united India can be strong—and only a strong India can and will provide a higher standard of living to our millions—and only such an India can become the beacon light to the millions of this wide world, showing them the path to eternal happiness and peace.

FEAR GOD

Sd/- Bhagvan Das
Former MLA (Central)

Sd/- CP Ramaswami Ayar
Former Dewan of Travancore

Sd/- Harindranath Chattyopadhya
Poet and Former MP

Sd/- VP Menon
Former Secretary, Ministry of State

Sd/- SB Scindia
Maharaja of Gwalior

Sd/- MR Jayakar
Former Privy Councillor of London

Sd/- Mirza Ismail
Former Dewan of Mysore
and Prime Minisrer of
Jaipur & Hyderabad

Sd/- General KM Cariappa
Former Commander-in-Chief

10 May 1957